

R E M A R K S

Careful review and examination of the subject application are noted and appreciated. Applicant's representative thanks Examiner Tran for the indication of allowable matter.

SUPPORT FOR CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Support for the amendments to the claims can be found in the drawings as originally filed, for example, on FIGS. 1 and 3 and in the specification as originally filed, for example, on page 7, lines 3-18. Claims 17 and 20 have been amended for consistency. As such, no new matter has been introduced.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

The rejection of claims 1-3, 5, 7-22 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by New et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,362,650, hereafter New) has been obviated by appropriate amendment and should be withdrawn.

The allowable matter of claim 23 has been incorporated into claim 1. Claims 15 and 16 have been amended to include subject matter similar to the allowable matter of claim 23. New Claim 25 presents the allowable matter of claim 4 in independent form. Claims 2-15, 17-22 and 24 depend, directly or indirectly, from either claim 1 or claim 16 which are believed to be allowable.

As such, the presently claimed invention is fully patentable over the cited reference and the rejection should be withdrawn.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

The rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over New has been obviated by appropriate amendment and should be withdrawn. Claim 6 depends directly from claim 1 which is believed to be allowable. As such, the presently claimed invention is fully patentable over the cited references and the rejection should be withdrawn.


Accordingly, the present application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action by the Examiner is respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully invited to call the Applicant's representative should it be deemed beneficial to further advance prosecution of the application.

If any additional fees are due, please charge our office
Account No. 50-0541.

Respectfully submitted,

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